

## Observations by the Kicker.

## No Brass Bands, Parades or Shouting for the Party. Much Scratching Expected.--Suggestions.

Next Tuesday the free born American male citizen over the age of twenty-one will be accorded the biennial privilege of walking up to the polls and voting for what he deems every other day in the year. The representative in Congress is the only matter of national significance that you will have to puzzle your brain about. The Republicans have given you Lawyer Tyndall, and the Democrats have given you Lawyer-Banker-Landlord Russell. Take your choice.

In the state there are four tickets in the field--Republican, Democratic, Socialist and Prohibition. Either the Republican or Democratic will be successful--but not by my vote. I am tired of choosing between the lesser of two evils. As to the state ticket I shall vote the ticket that comes nearest representing my ideas of government. If every voter does this it will encourage those who are making the bold stand against the organized corruption of both old parties and will hasten the day of deliverance.

As the county there is a deadly silence. Never have such efforts been made to arouse the people, and never were the people so indifferent. They just refuse to shout. We have had with us any number of big guns representing both sides of the shell game, but the people refuse to get stirred up and quarrel over which shell the little round ball is under. This is a good sign. It indicates that the people are doing their own thinking. And some surprises may be expected next Tuesday.

Every citizen should take an interest in the county election. A county is a corporation, and every taxpayer is a part owner of that corporation. He is a director and stockholder and should see to it that the very best men are selected to conduct its affairs. It is a business proposition pure and simple, and if the directors and stockholders get careless, they alone suffer. Annually they pay to the collector the amount necessary to build roads and bridges and keep up the public service. They choose their employees at the elections and if they choose wisely they are the gainers.

And right here I want to put to you a plain business proposition: If you were out looking for a man to clerk in your store, would you investigate his record as a Democrat or Republican, or would you inquire as to his honesty, integrity and ability?

Mr. Farmer, if you were looking for a good, trusty hand to look after your fields and your stock, would you go about inquiring into a man's politics, or would you investigate his reputation for honesty, sobriety and faithful service? Answer these questions and tell me why you will allow yourselves to be made fools of when it comes to choosing men to look after your county affairs?

In Scott county there are two sets of men in the field for county jobs. One will be found on the Republican ticket and the other on the Democratic ticket. On both tickets are good and competent men, and both have weak spots. Will you pick the best that both affords and will you swallow the straight ticket nonsense? Will you act as you would act in every-day business matters, or will you continue to let your desire to kill your neighbor's vote get the better of your judgment. Remember that your neighbor is also a director and stockholder, and it is only by keeping neighbors arrayed against each other that politicians thrive. Hadn't you and your neighbor better quit fighting, get together and use a little horse sense?

Last week I was impressed with a part of the argument made by Prosecuting Attorney Collins, of Pemiscot county, to the jury in the Betts case. He desired to show the jury that government rested with the people, and that people would have just such a government as they deserve. He said: "No matter how good may be your president, nor how good may be your governor; they are powerless without the aid of good court judges, good sheriffs and good prosecuting attorneys. No matter how good may be your judge, your sheriff or your prosecuting attorney, they are powerless unless upheld by a good citizenship from which you, the jurors, are drawn. When the sheriff delivers you into this court room he vouches for you under his oath of office."

And it was a good jury--the kind that removes all suspicion of a possibility of being tampered with. Of the thirty men summoned by the sheriff, every one qualified. But you know this has not always been so. Only a little over a year ago an en-

tire venire summoned to try the Blay case was dismissed because of the character of a majority of the men summoned.

But conditions are improving some in Scott county. Public sentiment and scratching at elections is forcing an improved condition and it seems to have reached every department, to some extent, excepting the office of prosecuting attorney. The April grand jury found some 70 or 80 indictments for violations of the liquor law. The majority of these were dismissed and the docket does not show that a single license was revoked, although the revocation of the license is as much a part of the penalty as the payment of cost.

But Mr. Kelly is shaking the dust of Scott county from his feet. His successor is to be elected next Tuesday. The Republicans have on their ticket a man who came here from St. Louis and has been a resident of Edna for about a year. The Democrats have a man who came from various parts of Illinois and has been here about a year also. Both are comparative strangers and the average citizen who cares to use judgment may find it difficult to decide.

But I overcome this difficulty some weeks ago. I want changed conditions and I see no hope for a change in voting for the present prosecuting attorney's assistant. Men who have contrary ideas are not appointed as assistants. The Republican nominee has at least the advantage of being a Missourian. A change can do no harm. We can make it no worse.

That a change in the office of prosecuting attorney is necessary is evidenced from the report of the April grand jury. As matters now stand all are of the same political party--all of the same political family and regard public duty as a sort of family affair. It took some hard knocks to get the voters to see the misgovernment going on at Jefferson City, but they finally got their eyes open and changed it. What was the result? Why, during the first year the governor announced that the people were paying nearly double the amount of taxes necessary to run the state government, and that he would recommend to the next legislature a bill to greatly reduce taxes. Did you get hurt by that change?

And what did your April grand jury, composed of eleven Democrats and one Republican, say? Space forbids giving the report entire, but will give you a significant paragraph taken from it: "We find that the last financial statement published in May, 1905, is very indefinite and DOES NOT ENLIGHTEN THE PEOPLE AS TO THE CONDITION OF THEIR AFFAIRS AS IS INTENDED BY LAW. Close analysis reveals a DEFICIT Dec. 31, 1904, of about \$2,500, and by applying the receipts up to and including April, 1905, a balance of \$15,000 is shown. When it is considered that the collector made his settlement with the county in March, 1905, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS A VERY CREDITABLE SHOWING."

Mind you, grand jurors are usually farmers and not accountants who could delve into the mysteries that experts are expected to solve. Neither have they the time--for it might take weeks and even months to make a thorough investigation, but they very clearly intimated that there is a screw loose somewhere.

Did the prosecuting attorney act? Did he try to locate that loose screw? No? Why not? It is there--for the county clerk's published statement last year showed the deficit to exist as reported by the grand jury--although it was so interwoven in the statement that the grand jury says it required "close analysis" to reveal it, and was covered by applying the receipts up to May so that the final balance shown was some \$15,000. Again I ask, why was such a remarkable report ignored? Why was the financial statement published this year no more explicit than the one complained of by the grand jury? Ask yourself these questions Mr. Taxpayer.

To refresh your memory I will again publish the names of the April grand jurors, so that you may judge as to its character: Judge J. L. Hale, Oran, foreman; Andrew Dirnberger, New Hamburg; B. M. Swank, Prices Landing; Pearl Daugherty, Kelo; F. A. Griggs and J. P. Smith, Morley; J. S. Lay and Robert Joyce, Skeston; Claude Wylie, Chaffee; Carter Foster, Benton; Wm. Ellis, Commerce; Claude B. Hay, Blodgett. J. S. Lay was the lone republican, and all but two or three are farmers. All are men who stand high in their respective communities. Do you believe they would have submitted such

a report if there had been no cause for it?

In conclusion I feel it a duty to urge all good men to go to the polls, act cautiously and keep cool heads on next Tuesday. From now on it is well to quietly discuss the situation with neighbors and make up your mind at home where you are free from the pull and haul of political rosters. The ticket appears in this issue. Cut out the particular ticket you expect to vote and make such changes as suit you.

At the polling place you will receive four tickets--cut apart and separate. One you will vote and the other three you must return to be destroyed by the election officers. By cutting out the ticket you intend to vote and marking it as you wish to vote, you will not likely become confused when you back up in that dark booth that has been provided for the free American citizen. Then take the ticket received from the election judge and mark it just as you marked the one cut from the paper. If you are unable to read, see that the election official marks it correctly for you.

In Switzerland the people make out their tickets at home and send them to the election officials by free mail. Switzerland has a good government. Use Switzerland methods and make out your ticket at home, but that is as far as you can go, for you have to go to the polling place in person so as to give the political rosters a chance at you. Tell these paid rosters to stand aside. For a man to approach you and tell you how to vote is equal to telling you that you haven't got sense enough

to cast an intelligent vote. And if you allow him to influence you it is proof positive that he sized you up about right.

There will be booze in plenty for those who care for it. Stay sober--at least until after you vote. If you stay sober that long, you will go home sober--for they will not urge it after you have voted. It ought to be an insult to any man to be coaxed off to a hidden bottle, jug or keg on election day. It is proof that the custodian of the liquor regards the voter as a man whose vote can be influenced by a drink. Are you that sort of a man? If not, then you should resent such methods.

If you will go to the polls next Tuesday and exercise the same common sense in voting that you do in other matters, you will be surprised at the result. Your county treasury will fill up as your state treasury has filled up, and there will be no lack of money for roads, bridges and other public expenditures. Vote for the home, the wife and the babies and let "the party" go to thunder.

## A LIVELY PROTEST.

The depths to which politicians and their organs will go to besmirch a man's character--especially an honest man--is remarkable. For months the ring Democratic organs have been trying to make it appear that E. W. Flentge, Republican nominee for Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner, was dishonest. I have known Billy Flentge from youth, and I know that no man stands higher in Cape Girardeau county than he.

Six years ago Mr. Flentge was collector of Cape Girardeau county.

His political opponents try to make it appear that he was short in his accounts. The present road law was then new and enforced with difficulty there, as it was here also. There was a difference of some \$600 due the county after Mr. Flentge's settlement, which he paid. The difference was such as may occur to any official acting under a new law. If you have any doubt about this, ask yourself how many shifts and turns have been made in the enforcement of the present game law. And our road law is about as crazy as our game law.

To set matters right the members of the county court who settled with Mr. Flentge have issued a sworn statement setting forth the facts, and while I have not the room to give it in full, their statement concludes: "We desire to say that we have at no time questioned the personal honesty or official integrity and honesty of Mr. Flentge. We regard his course throughout his official career as upright and honorable, and the books of his office furnish proof that his record as a collector has not been surpassed in Cape Girardeau county for a period of twenty years."

And more: The Democrats of Cape Girardeau are up in arms and seventy-four of the leading business men of the city are out in a circular letter denouncing the "shameful and unmanly and un-democratic attacks" on their neighbor. Here is what they say:

Cape Girardeau, Mo., Oct. 23, 1906. "To the People of Missouri: Regardless of Political Affiliations: We, the undersigned local Democrats residing in and in business at Cape Girardeau, desire to protest and condemn the shameful, unmanly and un-democratic attacks which are being made on one of our best and most highly respected citizens and business men, E. W. Flentge, for no other reason than to gain some political advantage. Every citizen who knows E. W. Flentge knows he is honest, courageous and one of the hardest workers for the public interests in this part of the state. We believe it would be more manly and more Democratic to advocate the good qualities of our candidate than to try to drag the good name of a fellow-citizen in the mire. Asking all fair newspapers to publish this statement, we are, Respectfully,

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To this circular are attached 74 names--nearly all of whom are personally known to me to be Democrats. Have not the space, but will mention a few: W. S. Albert, H. G. Dempsey, W. W. Ward, Ed S. Lilly, W. H. Bohnsack, R. H. Whitehead, (ex-congressman) E. P. Ellis.

What do you think of that?

The Missouri Sharp Shooter says: "The man who carries his pencil to the polls is a patriot. He is the man who brings about all our political reforms and stands for good government. May his kind multiply and increase and replenish the earth. So long as there is no political difference between the two parties except the label, the proper thing for the people to do when they go to the polls is to pick their man and vote for him without looking at his label."

## IN THIS "FREE" COUNTRY

The Socialists are having a time of it in this "free" country. In St. Louis, a year ago, by order of Mayor Rolla Wells, a Socialist meeting was broken up by the police and the speakers clubbed. In Colorado the

Socialist candidate for governor is in the Idaho jail, and has committed no offense. In Georgia the Socialist candidate was arrested and thrown into prison for speaking on the streets. And now comes Judge P. L. Palmer, of the Colorado district court and refused to grant naturalization papers to men with Socialist ideas. "I will not issue naturalization papers to a Socialist," says the Colorado judge.

Commenting on the action of this Colorado judge the Appeal to Reason says:

"Not only is freedom of speech and press suppressed, but freedom of conscience is now prohibited! For a man cannot control his belief. Here is a man occupying a high place given him by the people, who punishes those same people for believing what they are forced to believe! And this is a republic! It was Carlyle who gave this advice to the boy: 'Go out into the world and see how little brains rule it.' And Carlyle was a deep thinker and knew what he was saying."

"Those who believe in the Socialist philosophy cannot disbelieve any more than those who believe in Mohammed or Buddha or the pope or any other belief can believe otherwise. Of course, it is useless to condemn the judge for he is under the same law--he believes what he must just the same as do other men. The only way to change a man's belief is to present to his mind evidence that is compelling, showing that its beliefs are error and not truth. The old brutal method is to kill the person and thus do away with the mind that holds the feared conception of things, and it is strange that in this age of schools and philosophy such bruteries as this judge should be selected to rule. He should have been in accord with things a thousand years ago, or even now would fit conditions in Russia or Turkey, but to have such animals, brainless and blind, on the bench today shows how savagery and civilization are blended, like the shades of night as morning approaches."

"Condemning a mind for what it believes! That is, show a man a horse and then because he cannot resist the mental conclusion, punish him for believing that it is a horse! The mind does not believe what it wants to believe; it believes what it must believe. This is just as true of abstract things as of concrete things."

For example: The evidence has come to the reason of the majority of intelligent persons that there has been a lot of corruption in insurance circles. Should the people be punished for believing this? Can they help it? Isn't the only way to destroy this belief to give them convincing evidence that what they have read is false? And when they are so convinced, can they help believing that there was no corruption? But if you cannot give them that evidence will they not still believe in the corruption, whether they desire to or not? Or put it this way: You have been reared in this country under an environment that gives you certain mental conclusions regarding Christ. Now, if you can control your beliefs, try to believe in Mohammed as the Savior of the world and see how you succeed. You may say you believe, but do you? You don't believe what you want to, but what you must. Get that into your brain and you will see the truth of it. And that being true, you can't stamp out any belief except you first convince the minds that are controlled by such beliefs that they are in error, and that you can do in two ways--one by giving better reasons that the belief is an error than they can get that it is truth, and the other by taking the children and giving your side to them without permitting them to hear any contrary evidence, so they will have only one side of the matter. That is what some creeds do to control, and what the old parties do when they refuse to discuss Socialism, but simply denounce it. This method has never yet changed the views of a single Socialist, and it never will.

"The act of the judge will help! Socialism, not hurt it. Every act of injustice only helps the cause it would hurt in this age of reading. Every exile to Siberia, every slaughter of the opposers of the czar, has only made the downfall of autocracy more certain, just as the arbitrary acts of King George made a successful revolution of the American colonists certain, and without which acts this country would be British territory the same as Canada today. Therefore, Socialist welcome such acts of tyranny, as they are evidences which we can point out to those who will listen to show the error of the present system of society. Once there was a Judge Jeffrys. Read in history how his bad acts helped to build for human liberty. Judge Palmer makes Socialism."

## Official Ballot.--Scott County, Missouri.

## Republican Ticket

For Judge of Supreme Court--long term.

JOHN KENNISH.

For Judge of Supreme Court--short term.

JAMES TILFORD NEVILLE.

For Superintendent of Public Schools.

JAMES L. WHITE.

For Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner.

EDWARD WILLIAM FLENTGE.

First Constitutional Amendment--Authorizing counties and other municipal corporations, by a two-thirds vote, to become indebted for the purpose of grading, constructing, paving or maintaining of paved, gravelled, macadamized or rock roads and necessary bridges and culverts.--YES.

Second Constitutional Amendment--Providing for the election of sheriffs and coroners for a term of four years.--YES.

Third Constitutional Amendment--Providing for the election of sheriffs and coroners for a term of four years.--NO.

For Representative in Congress.

W. T. TYNDALL.

For Representative in Congress.

GREEN B. ORRER.

For Presiding Judge County Court.

WM. H. TANNER.

For Judge County Court 1st District.

S. R. CAVANAUGH.

For Judge County Court 2nd District.

MATT THOMAS.

For Judge Probate Court.

S. H. DEWHIRST.

For Clerk Circuit Court.

H. R. WILLIAMS.

For Clerk County Court.

FRANK C. MILLER.

For Recorder of Deeds.

H. W. HITCHCOCK.

For Prosecuting Attorney.

JAMES A. FINCH.

For Sheriff.

LEO HEDERER.

For Collector of the Revenue.

CHAS. REICHMAN.

For County Treasurer.

R. M. THIMMSEN.

For Coroner.

GEORGE JACOB.

For Justice of the Peace, Commerce Township.

A. L. MILLS.

For Justice of the Peace, Kelo Township.

W. M. CASHMAN.

For Justice of the Peace, Morley Township.

ALBERT SCHRETTLE.

For Justice of the Peace, Moreland Township.

DAVE POTTELL.

For Justice of the Peace, Sandy Woods Township.

JOHN SCHULTZ.

For Justice of the Peace, Sandy Woods Township.

W. F. BRADLEY.

For Justice of the Peace, Sandy Woods Township.

W. F. BRADLEY.

For Justice of the Peace, Tyngsby Township.

CHAS. ST. CYN.

For Constable, Commerce Township.

JOHN L. CLYMER.

For Constable, Kelo Township.

JAMES McLEAN.

For Constable, Morley Township.

G. W. MESTER.

For Constable, Moreland Township.

LEO FORBES.

For Constable, Moreland Township.

XABIER SCHNEIDER.

For Constable, Sandy Woods Township.

P. H. WHIT.

For Constable, Sandy Woods Township.

EDWARD ENGLE.

For Constable, Tyngsby Township.

For Constable, Tyngsby Township.

## Democratic Ticket

For Judge of Supreme Court--long term.

ARCHELAUS M. WOODSON.

For Judge of Supreme Court--short term.

WALLER W. GRAVES.

For Superintendent of Public Schools.

HOWARD A. GASS.

For Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner.

RUBE OGLESBY.

First Constitutional Amendment--Authorizing counties and other municipal corporations, by a two-thirds vote, to become indebted for the purpose of grading, constructing, paving or maintaining of paved, gravelled, macadamized or rock roads and necessary bridges and culverts.--YES.

Second Constitutional Amendment--Providing for the election of sheriffs and coroners for a term of four years.--YES.

Third Constitutional Amendment--Providing for the election of sheriffs and coroners for a term of four years.--NO.

For Representative in Congress.

JOSEPH J. RESSLELL.

For Representative in Congress.

J. J. WADE.

For Presiding Judge County Court.

WM. H. BLOOM.

For Judge County Court 1st District.

JOE H. HUTCHASON.

For Judge County Court 2nd District.

CHARLES HAMM.

For Judge Probate Court.

E. A. KINGSBURY.

For Clerk Circuit Court.

JAMES M. ARNOLD.

For Clerk County Court.

JAMES McPHEETERS.

For Recorder of Deeds.

ROBERT L. STUBBLEFIELD.

For Prosecuting Attorney.

C. N. MOZLEY.

For Sheriff.

LOUIS GUBER.

For Collector of the Revenue.

ARTHUR BRIDGEMAN.

For County Treasurer.

JOSEPH S. TORRER.

For Coroner.

G. S. CANNON.

For Justice of the Peace, Commerce Township.

B. J. ELLIS.

For Justice of the Peace, Kelo Township.

B. E. GAITHER.

For Justice of the Peace, Morley Township.

JOHN EBERT.

For Justice of the Peace, Moreland Township.

T. A. MOUTHERN.

For Justice of the Peace, Sandy Woods Township.

P. D. M. GIBSON.

For Justice of the Peace, Sandy Woods Township.

A. A. HARRISON.

For Justice of the Peace, Sandy Woods Township.

EVANS WATSON.

For Justice of the Peace, Sandy Woods Township.

A. W. WRIGHT.

For Justice of the Peace, Sandy Woods Township.

J. C. BERTON.

For Justice of the Peace, Tyngsby Township.

G. W. FINLEY.

For Justice of the Peace, Tyngsby Township.

J. R. KIRKPATRICK.

For Constable, Commerce Township.

WM. ELLIS.

For Constable, Kelo Township.

GEORGE T. PATE.

For Constable, Morley Township.

LARRY BROWN.

For Constable, Moreland Township.

LEO GONCH.

For Constable, Sandy Woods Township.

J. H. HEID.

For Constable, Sandy Woods Township.

WM. A. SCARBROUGH.

For Constable, Sandy Woods Township.

ED. L. MILLER.

For Constable, Tyngsby Township.

R. M. WHITAKER.

## Socialist Ticket

(Nominated by Electors.)

For Judge of Supreme Court--long term.

L. G. POPE.

For Judge of Supreme Court--short term.

J. WELLER LONG.